

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 01304 01 OF 02 161558Z

45

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 INR-07 L-02 IO-10 SS-15 SP-02

PM-03 EB-07 PRS-01 RSC-01 MC-01 /068 W

----- 053487

P 161521Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5909

INFO AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LOME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 01304

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, MASS, FR, ML, UV

SUBJECT: MALI-UPPER VOLTA BORDER DISPUTE: THE FRENCH
POSITION

REF: STATE 6820

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE QUAI HOPES AFRICAN EFFORTS TO MEDIATE
BETWEEN MALI AND UPPER VOLTA WILL BE LENGTHY AND ALLOW
THE SITUATION TO RETURN TO THE STATUS QUO ANTE. AN
AGGRAVATION OF SITUATION WOULD BENEFIT ONLY MALI AND
VOLTAN LEFTISTS. THE FRENCH BELIEVE WESTERN ARMS DE-
LIVERIES TO THE VOLTANS WOULD BE TO THE DISADVANTAGE OF
ALL CONCERNED. THEY THINK INTERNAL MALIAN POLITICS
PRECIPITATED THE CRISIS. END SUMMARY.

1. QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA REMOVILLE TOLD US
JANUARY 15 THAT FRANCE'S PRINCIPAL AIM IN THE MALI-UPPER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 01304 01 OF 02 161558Z

VOLTA BORDER DISPUTE IS TO ALLOW AFRICAN MEDIATION EF-

FORTS TO BEAR FRUIT, THUS RETURNING THE SITUATION TO THE POSITION PRIOR TO MALIAN MILITARY ACTION. CONSEQUENTLY, FRENCH HOPE MEDIATION EFFORT WILL BE PROLONGED OVER SEVERAL MONTHS TO ENABLE VOLTANS TO REGROUP EXISTING MILITARY POTENTIAL AND THUS TO PRESENT A CREDIBLE DEFENSE TO ANY FUTURE MALIAN THREAT. REPLYING TO A QUESTION, REMOVILLE SAID THAT WHILE FRENCH HAVE NOT EXPRESSED THIS VIEW IN SO MANY WORDS TO THE STATES MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION, THE AFRICAN MEDIATORS ALL UNDERSTAND THAT LONG COOLING OFF PERIOD IS NEEDED AND WILL ACT ACCORDINGLY.

2. REMOVILLE DECLARED THAT ANY AGGRAVATION OF THE SITUATION WOULD BE TO THE BENEFIT OF MALI, WHICH HAS CLEAR MILITARY SUPERIORITY, AND TO THE MOSCOW-ORIENTED VOLTAN INTELLIGENCIA AND JUNIOR OFFICERS WHO WOULD BE LIKELY TO COME TO POWER IN OUAGADOUGOU. BARRING SOME EXTERNAL AGGRAVATING FACTOR, THE FRENCH CONSIDER THAT (A) MALI WILL NOT RENEW MILITARY ACTION IN THE FACE OF CONTINUING MEDIATION EFFORTS BY ITS NEIGHBORS, AND (B) THE LAMIZANA GOVERNMENT WILL BE ABLE TO RESIST PRESSURES FROM EXTREME NATIONALISTS AND LEFTISTS.

3. ON ARMS, REMOVILLE SAID THAT BOTH THE MALIANS AND VOLTANS, THE LATTER MOST INSISTENTLY, HAVE REQUESTED FRENCH DELIVERIES. THE FRENCH ARE DRAGGING THEIR FEET AND HAVE NO INTENTION OF SUPPLYING ANY SIGNIFICANT QUANTITY OF ARMS. REMOVILLE SAID THE FRENCH ARE PERSUADED THAT ANY IMPORTANT ARMS SHIPMENTS TO UPPER VOLTA FROM A WESTERN POWER WOULD ONLY BE TO UPPER VOLTA'S DISADVANTAGE. IT WOULD PROVIDE JUST THE EXCUSE CERTAIN MALIANS ARE SEEKING TO PROVOKE THE SITUATION AND THE OUAGADOUGOU GOVERNMENT MIGHT WELL FALL. THUS THE FRENCH BELIEVE THAT OUR SUPPLYING ARMS WOULD CAUSE "SERIOUS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 01304 02 OF 02 161558Z

45

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 INR-07 L-02 IO-10 SS-15 RSC-01

PM-03 EB-07 PRS-01 SP-02 MC-01 /068 W

----- 053495

P 161521Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5910

INFO AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LOME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 01304

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

TROUBLES" (GRAVES INCONVENIENTS) IN THE AREA.

4. REMOVILLE DOES NOT THINK THE SOVIETS WILL PROVIDE MALI WITH ARMS SINCE TO DO SO WOULD INVITE THE HARSH CRITICISM OF MOST WEST AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS. HE SAID THE FRENCH ARE NOT AWARE, HOWEVER, OF THE RESULTS OF MALI DEFENSE MINISTER DOUKARA'S DECEMBER 24 - JANUARY 9 MISSION TO MOSCOW.

5. REMOVILLE SAID THAT INTERNAL MALIAN POLITICS, INCLUDING THE SOUTHERN MOVEMENT OF MALIANS SEEKING WATER, WERE LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR MALI'S RAISING CLAIMS TO THE DISPUTED AREA. THE MILITARY MOVES THEMSELVES, HE THINKS, WERE PRECIPITATED BY DOUKARA WHO HOPES TO REPLACE PRESIDENT TRAORE. REMOVILLE ALSO MENTIONED THAT THE SUPPOSED DISCOVERY OF OIL BY SOVIET GEOLOGISTS IN SOUTHERN MALI NEAR THE UPPER VOLTAN AND NIGERIEN BORDERS MAY HAVE BEEN AN INCITING FACTOR.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 01304 02 OF 02 161558Z

6. REMOVILLE INDICATED THAT THE FRENCH HAVE ALREADY PROVIDED THE MEDIATION COMMISSION WITH THE MAPS REQUESTED AND ARE WORKING ON PROVIDING THE OTHER (UNNAMED) DOCUMENTS. HE IMPLIED THAT IN LINE WITH THE FRENCH BELIEF THAT MEDIATION SHOULD BE A LENGTHY PROCESS, IT MIGHT BE SOME TIME BEFORE ALL THE PROMISED MATERIAL WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE. HE COMMENTED THAT THE FRENCH THINK THE VOLTANS HAVE A GOOD LEGAL CASE BUT SUGGESTED THAT THE EVENTUAL AWARDED TO MALI OF ONE VILLAGE BARELY WITHIN UPPER VOLTA AND ALMOST WHOLLY INHABITED BY MALIANS MIGHT BE PART OF AN EVENTUAL COMPROMISE SETTLEMENT.

7. COMMENT: FRENCH OBJECTIONS TO MILITARY DELIVERIES

WOULD NOT INCLUDE SUCH ITEMS AS UNIFORMS, TENTS AND
SIMILAR NON-LETHAL SUPPLIES BUT PARIS WOULD CONSIDER
U.S. ARMS SHIPMENTS, ESPECIALLY RELATIVELY LARGE ITEMS,
AS CONTRIBUTING TO DESTABILIZATION AND UNHEALTHY FOR
WESTERN INTERESTS IN THE REGION.

RUSH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARBITRATION, BOUNDARY DETERMINATION, BORDER INCIDENTS, BOUNDARY CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PARIS01304
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750017-0327
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750146/aaaabomn.tel
Line Count: 175
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: 75 STATE 6820
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <14 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MALI-UPPER VOLTA BORDER DISPUTE: THE FRENCH POSITION
TAGS: PBOR, MASS, FR, ML, UV
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006